



Chairman Hal Rogers

House Committee on Appropriations

**Subcommittee Markup - FY 2016 Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies
Appropriations Bill
June 17, 2015
Opening Statement As Prepared**

Mr. Chairman, thank you for yielding. I want to congratulate you and Ranking Member DeLauro, as well as staff on both sides, for bringing forward the Fiscal Year 2016 appropriations bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education.

Funded at \$153 billion, this bill supports proven and effective programs covering everything from workplace safety, to rural health care, to early childhood education. I'm proud this legislation strikes an appropriate balance by focusing on programs that support public health, biomedical research, and education while taking a targeted, thoughtful approach to reducing nonessential or inefficient programs. There are also a number of legislative provisions included to rein in the out-of-control regulations that hurt our economy and job growth, and that have impeded the rights of Americans across the country.

We are all aware of the important role the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) play in keeping our country healthy. This bill funds CDC at over \$7 billion, which includes additional funding to allow state, local, and tribal public health departments to expand the prevention and awareness to reduce the burden of heart disease, stroke, and diabetes in their local communities; to allow CDC to modernize state and regional labs to work with states to combat antibiotic resistance; and to combat prescription drug overdose.

This committee understands the scourge of the drug abuse that is claiming lives across the country and illustrates our commitment to fighting it by increasing funding levels for SAMHSA. Funding for opiate and heroin abuse treatment programs is increased by \$13 million over Fiscal Year 2015 enacted levels along with a \$16 million increase over the President's request for drug courts. Finally, within HHS, I'm pleased that this bill funds the National Institutes of Health at \$31.2 billion, which constitutes a \$1.1 billion increase over last year's enacted level and is \$100 million above the President's request.

The legislation also provides ample support for important education initiatives. Special Education state grants, which help local school districts ease the financial burden of providing specialized educational services, are funded at \$12 billion. GEAR UP and TRIO, programs that help disadvantaged students prepare for and complete college, received a 7 percent funding increase in the bill. Finally, Head Start is funded at \$8.8 billion with a special focus on early Head Start for the most vulnerable children.

I thank the subcommittee chairman for his hard work, and I support this legislation. I urge the subcommittee to promptly report this bill to the full Committee. Thank you, and I yield back.

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